

FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF

PVNET a valuable resource in Palos Verdes

This past Saturday, the *Peninsula News* featured a story about Amy Lee, an 18-year-old UCLA student who created an interactive Web site, PlanningYourLife.com, during her internship last summer at Palos Verdes on the Net, or PVNET.

Lee's site takes users through a series of steps to help them understand the importance of selecting the right career, identifying and finding the right job, estimating their life expectancy and planning for retirement. It also offers calculators that enable users to estimate how many hours of their lives they spend at work, how many hours are devoted to sleep and how much they can expect to earn annually in retirement based on current income levels.

Lee joins a long list of successful interns at PVNET, founded in 1995 by local resident Ted Vegvari. Currently with facilities on the grounds of Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall, PVNET offers internship opportunities to anyone from age 15 to adults. Vegvari, who retired after a career in the computer industry, built PVNET from the ground up. He has devoted countless volunteer hours, and much of his own resources, to an organization that teaches interns about the latest software and hardware.

PVNET also provides services to the city of RPV. In addition to helping the city get its geographic information system, or GIS, off the ground, PVNET works with staff to solve computer problems and maintain its network.

The *News* applauds Vegvari for his work with the city and with the mul-

titude of interns who come through his organization's doors.

Among the many success stories is that of former intern Derrick Auyoung, who worked his computer animation magic for the Hollywood blockbusters "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and "The Ring Two." Auyoung continues to use his animation skills in movies and now lives in New Zealand. He works at Weta Digital, a visual effects company co-owned by Peter Jackson, who directed the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Certainly a good part of Auyoung's success stems from his time at PVNET, where interns gain real-world experience with some of the best equipment.

This type of hands-on learning, which students can't get in textbooks, helps them develop successful career paths. Last summer alone, Lee learned Dreamweaver, PhotoShop, iMovie, Flash, ColdFusion and other software programs. She's likely to take that experience with her wherever she goes, both during and after college.

As Lee said, "I can definitely say that I loved working [at PVNET] ... I love the way PVNET reaches out to the community: When people come in, PVNET is willing to help them in any way [it] can."

Lee added that she "also learned a lot about developing relationships with people, communicating effectively and contributing to PVNET in a professional manner."

The *News* hopes Vegvari and PVNET continue to provide their valuable services to this community for years to come.